

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

John Bentivengna
2008 Second Place
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Robert E. Myers, Esquire
Coffey Kaye Myers & Olley
333 E. City Avenue, Suite 718, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

DEFENDANTS

New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Federal Employers' Liability Act, 45 U.S.C. § 51 et seq.

Brief description of cause:

Plaintiff sustained personal injuries during his employment with New Jersey Transit on November 3, 2015

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$ EXCESS 4
150,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

07/28/2017

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

JOHN BENTIVENGNA	:	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	NO.:
v.	:	
	:	
NEW JERSEY TRANSIT RAIL OPERATIONS, INC.	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant	:	

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

1. The plaintiff herein is John Bentivegna, a citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey, residing therein at 2008 Second Place, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

2. This action arises under the Act of Congress, April 22, 1908, c. 149, 35 Stat. 65, and amendments thereto, U.S.C.A. Title 45, §51 et seq., and further amended by the Act of Congress, approved by the President of the United States on August 11, 1939, Chapter 685 - First Session of the 76th Congress, known and cited as "The Federal Employers' Liability Act" and under "The Federal Safety Appliances Act," Title 49, U.S.C.A., §20301, et seq., and "The Federal Locomotive Inspection Act," Title 49 U.S.C.A., §20701, et seq.

3. The defendant is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New Jersey.

4. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned and for a long time prior thereto, the defendant, as a common carrier, operated trains carrying passengers, freight, express packages, baggage and foreign and domestic mail, in commerce, between the different states of the United States and its territories.

5. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the acts of omission and commission, causing the injuries to the plaintiff, were done by the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or

employees, acting in the course and scope of their employment with and under the control of the defendant.

6. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff and the defendant were engaged in interstate commerce between the different states of the United States and its territories.

7. All of the property, equipment and operations involved in the accident herein referred to were owned by and under the control of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees.

8. As a result of the accident herein referred to, plaintiff has suffered a loss and impairment of earnings and earning power and will suffer the same for an indefinite time in the future; has undergone great physical pain and mental anguish and will undergo the same for an indefinite time in the future; has been obliged to and will have to continue to expend large sums of money in the future in an effort to effect a cure of his injuries; has been unable to attend to his usual duties and occupation and will be unable to attend to the same for an indefinite time in the future, all to his great detriment and loss.

9. The accident herein referred to was caused solely and exclusively by the negligence of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees, and was due in no manner whatsoever to any act or failure to act on the part of the plaintiff.

10. On or about November 3, 2015, at NJT's Raritan Yard, at or near Raritan, New Jersey, and for some time prior thereto, Plaintiff was employed by defendant New Jersey Transit Rail Operations Inc.

11. On the aforementioned date, and at the aforementioned time, plaintiff was working as a railroad conductor.

12. On the aforementioned date, and at the aforementioned time, plaintiff's train finished its trips and was being secured.

13. On the aforementioned date, and at the aforementioned time, plaintiff was in the process of applying a handbrake on a rail car.

14. The handbrake in question was a pump-type hand brake.

15. On the aforementioned date, and at the aforementioned time, plaintiff was properly positioned while pumping and/or applying the handbrake.

16. While plaintiff was moving the handbrake in an upward position, the aforementioned handbrake suddenly and without warning stopped and jammed, causing plaintiff to experience immediate pain in his back and further causing him to sustain the serious, painful and permanent personal injuries set forth herein.

17. A properly and efficiently functioning handbrake does not stop suddenly and jam. The action of the aforementioned handbrake was abnormal and was caused by a defective, inefficient and unsafe condition.

18. The aforementioned accident was caused by the negligence and carelessness of the defendant, its agents, servants, workman and/or employees, and was further caused by its violation of the Federal Safety Appliances Act, and the Federal Employers' Liability Act.

19. The negligence of the defendant consisted of the following:

- (a) Failing to inspect the subject handbrake;
- (b) Failing to discover the unsafe, defective, broken and inefficient condition of the subject handbrake;
- (c) Failing to properly repair the subject handbrake;
- (d) Failing to properly maintain the subject handbrake;

(e) Requiring plaintiff to work with a handbrake that was defective, broken, and improperly operating and/or inefficient; and

(f) Failing to warn plaintiff of these dangerous conditions.

20. The aforesaid accident was caused by the negligence of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees, and by the defendant's violation of "The Federal Employers' Liability Act," "The Federal Safety Appliances Act" and "The Federal Locomotive Inspection Act," and was due in no manner whatsoever to any act or failure to act on the part of the plaintiff.

21. As a result of the aforesaid accident, plaintiff sustained injuries to his body, including but at this time not limited to, its bones, cells, tissues, nerves, muscles and functions. Plaintiff sustained injuries to the lower back; a herniated disc at L5-S1; bulging disc L4-L5; lumbosacral radiculopathy; and injury to the lumbar spine. Plaintiff suffered nerve damage to the entire spine. Some or all of the above injuries are or may be permanent in nature. The full extent of plaintiff's injuries is not presently known.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff claims of the defendant, a sum in excess of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars.

COFFEY KAYE MYERS & OLLEY

BY: 

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